

seemed to be composed principally of elytra of beetles and legs and wings of grasshoppers and crickets. A mental image of the owl matched up very well with Audubon's plate of a Burrowing Owl. I was impressed by the owl's falcon-like speed as it dashed down to alight on the bank of the ditch. While I have seen but three Saw-whet Owls in this region, they were observed in thickets and woodland. The pellets will be sent to some expert for determination of contents.—HOMER F. PRICE, *Payne, Ohio*.

Additions to the Florida list.—Western Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea*).—A specimen of this form was secured at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, December 15, 1944, by Lt. Donald E. Stullken, USNR. Subspecific identification was verified by Dr. Alexander Wetmore and the skin is now in the collection of the U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.

Lt. Stullken, to whom I am indebted for the privilege of recording this occurrence, writes: "This bird was caught alive . . . [It] died a short time after it was brought in, apparently from some kind of poison. Examination of the stomach revealed several cockroaches which may have been the source of this poison." The bird was caught on the edge of the barracks area of the Naval Air Station on a bare flat of white sand sparsely dotted with clumps of coarse grass and stunted evergreen oaks. Lt. Stullken, who had had no opportunity to acquaint himself with the normal bird life of the region, is to be congratulated upon his initiative in preserving the specimen as an item of possible interest, in making the stomach examination and in recording the details of capture.

The Pensacola region lies between the normal ranges of the two North American forms of the Burrowing Owl, *S. c. hypugaea* and *S. c. floridana*. Howell (Florida Bird Life: 294, 1932) records the Florida form only from the Peninsula, with the most northerly occurrence about 300 miles east of Pensacola. The western form is known to occur with some regularity in southern Louisiana, extending its winter range as far east as the coast of Mississippi to a point about 150 miles west of Pensacola (Burleigh, The Bird Life of the Gulf Coast of Mississippi, Occ. Papers Mus. of Zool., La. State Univ., No. 20: 389, Dec. 30, 1944). Howell (Birds of Alabama: 155, 1924) records a Burrowing Owl taken by him on February 3, 1912, on Blakely Island, Alabama (about 50 miles west of Pensacola) and referred by him to the western form. Later, Bent (Life Histories of N. A. Birds of Prey, Pt. 2, U. S. Nat. Mus., Bull. 170: 396, 1938) refers Howell's Blakely Island specimen to *S. c. floridana*, an opinion that is concurred in by Dr. J. W. Aldrich, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (*in litt.*).

In view of the Gulf Coast distribution summarized above, a Burrowing Owl reported to me by Mr. Frank Bray at the Pensacola Municipal Airport, October 11, 1940, and seen by me and others of a party of observers on October 12 and on subsequent dates, could have been of either the western or the Florida form, with probability favoring the former. Unfortunately, it was not practicable to collect the specimen.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens cinerascens*).—A specimen of this species, taken on Town Point on the south side of Pensacola Bay opposite the city of Pensacola, Florida, December 24, 1944, was identified for me by Dr. John W. Aldrich, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This is, so far as can be discovered, the only recorded occurrence of this species east of Colorado and central Texas.

The bird was found by a party of observers (Lt. E. J. Koestner, USNR, and others) engaged in making the annual Christmas Bird Count for Audubon Magazine. They were able to follow the bird around for some minutes, observe its manner of feeding,

listen to its call notes, etc. Later, the bird was shot in their presence by a youthful "hunter." Fortunately, they realized the interest of the specimen and preserved it. The area in which the bird was found, and in which it seemed to be making a satisfactory living, is typical of much of this section of the Gulf Coast—a level terrain of white sand, thickly grown with evergreen oaks of several dwarf species. It was in just such a spot, and only 20 miles to the eastward, that I secured another desert species, Palmer's Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre palmeri*), some years ago (Auk, 49: 484, 1932).

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*).—A specimen of this species, the only one known from Florida, was taken by me at a point about eight miles northeast of Pensacola, September 28, 1941. It is now in the collection of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.

Howell (Florida Bird Life: 475, 1932) includes the Philadelphia Vireo in his hypothetical list on the basis of 'sight' records of mine of April 18 and 19, 1919, and October 6, 1926. I did not see another until October 2, 1938, when, in a patch of live-oak woods northeast of Pensacola, I shot one and lost it in the undergrowth. Three years later, in the same spot (and I believe in the same tree!), I succeeded in securing the specimen that is the subject of this note.

Since that time, this vireo has been noted on several occasions in the Pensacola region, and it should now be considered a regular, though very rare, spring and fall migrant through extreme western Florida. The dates of recent observations are: March 29, 1942, one bird reported by Alan C. Sheppard (a competent observer, who had aided me in securing my specimen a few months earlier); October 1, 1944, four birds, two at a time in widely separated localities, were seen by me and other members of my party; and October 8, 1944, one bird seen by the same party.—FRANCIS M. WESTON, 2006 East Jordan St., Pensacola, Florida.

Notes from Idaho.—It may be of interest to record that I have recently seen Starlings in numbers in and about American Falls and Aberdeen, Idaho. Later, on February 10, I observed them on the R. V. Swanson ranch about four miles west of Pocatello. There were about 75 of them in a flock of approximately a thousand Brewer's Blackbirds and Redwings. Again, on February 16, I counted 36 in the same vicinity.

On February 17, while I was in the company of Mr. Victor Jones, Dean John R. Nichols, and Dr. C. W. McIntosh, Jr., two Starlings were collected, making the first authenticated record of the species in Idaho. The birds were rather shy and extremely difficult to approach, keeping well out of range during most of the afternoon when we were watching them.

I was also fortunate on February 16 in seeing a large female Duck Hawk take a hen Mallard in a very spectacular flight east of the Swanson ranch. The Duck Hawk rose from a fence post and soared up several thousand feet with no indication of hunting. Then it made several half-hearted swoops at several large flights of ducks milling around local grain fields. Finally, a rather small group of Mallards rose beneath the falcon and started away down wind from it. In one long stoop the falcon singled out a hen, later observed on the ground, and killed her with two blows, the first of which seemed to knock her about in the air and the second to finish the kill. I watched the falcon plume the duck and begin to eat it before I left.—HAROLD M. WEBSTER, JR., Pocatello, Idaho.

The Barbets—Errata and Addenda.—The paper which the author presented on the barbets in The Auk, 62: 542–563, 1945, went to press while he was overseas.