

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**An Outlaw Barn Owl.**—On May 25, 1928, I visited Castle Rock, a large rock which lies off Crescent City, California, and which supports an extensive rookery of sea birds. There was an old cabin on the Island which had fallen partly to ruin. Under a built-in wooden bedstead was the nest of a Barn Owl (*Aluco pratincola*). The female flew out as I entered. Back in the corner, farthest from the light, were four owlets. The area covered by the bed was three inches deep with the feathers, wings and bodies of Beal Leach Petrels (*Oceanodromu leucorhoa beali*). These little birds were evidently so easily caught that there were numbers of bodies with only the heads removed, and I collected for study three specimens with hardly a feather misplaced. A good number of the bodies of the petrels were rotting and inhabited by fly larvae.

I am a staunch defender of the Raptores, but, in this case, as it seemed rather hard on the petrels, I disposed of the owlets.—PAUL BONNOT, *Stanford University, California, July 12, 1928.*

**Early Nesting of the Redpoll in Alaska.**—Under date of May 10, 1928, the eskimo representative of the Chicago Academy of Sciences at Cape Prince of Wales, Alaska, wrote as follows: "I went to Teller on 10th of April and I met an old man from Igloo, sixty miles from Teller, and he told me that the Redpolls had laid their eggs there. He said that was something unusual. He said he had lived there all his life. There never was so early any such birds lay eggs. Two weeks ago we heard they had hatched."

Nagozruk, the eskimo who wrote the above, is an unusual man, and we receive many interesting notes from him relative to the birds of the North. Being a hunter, he is afield constantly, and as he is thoroughly familiar with the birds and mammals, he is able to distinguish between most species. The natives do not differentiate between the Common and the Hoary redpoll, however, and the above note may refer to either of the two, as they both occur in the same region, and have similar habits. After a season's work in the field with Nagozruk, I am satisfied that his observations are reliable.—ALFRED M. BAILEY, *Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago, Illinois, July 2, 1928.*

**Note on a Bush-tit's Eye Color.**—On April 5, 1928, we caught a bush-tit in our water trap. It had cream-colored eyes. We were particularly interested in its eye color because of notes taken by other banders concerning the bush-tit's eye color, especially those of Mr. and Mrs. Michener which have appeared in the CONDOR (XXX, 1928, p. 133). After examining this bush-tit, we listed it as a nesting female because of the presence of the bare incubation patch. We live in hopes of taking her again, as well as other bush-tits, for further study.—MYRTLE S. EDWARDS, *Claremont, California, May 19, 1928.*

**A Mockingbird in Saskatchewan.**—At noon on May 31 while sitting at dinner I thought I could hear the spirited singing of a Brown Thrasher and when I went out to investigate, a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) flew across from the willows by the river to our tree plantation. After watching it for some time I had to leave it to go to my work. At dusk the bird was back by the river in front of the house, and for nearly an hour we listened to its wonderful singing, which none of us had ever expected to hear short of a trip to California. It mimicked repeatedly the notes of three of our common birds, the White-rumped Shrike, Say Phoebe, and Arctic Towhee.

Early next morning the Mockingbird started to sing again. About 9 A. M. it was performing from the top of a birch bush half a mile down-stream, and in the evening it was back again in front of the house. This round was made regularly each day until June 4, by which time I had several opportunities to study its ways and listen to its song; and most reluctantly I decided I must shoot the bird (which could only be done in the midst of its song—at other times it was too wary), or else be content with a "sight-record" which no one would believe. I was fortunate